



9:00 AM

July 22, 2022

This meeting was held online only through Microsoft Teams <https://tinyurl.com/mtsjb7c5>

Join by Phone: 443-409-5228, Phone Conference ID: 311 549 60#

## MEETING MINUTES

### Attendees:

#### Members:

Jon Morrison, Chair  
Lt. Laura Beck  
Bong Delrosario  
Marshall Edwards  
Heather Ersts  
Steve Green  
Jeff Hirsch  
Kristi Pier

Marquette Rogers  
Gabriel Rose  
Jim Titus  
Marian Vessels  
John Wetmore  
Antoine RJ Wright  
Bihui Xu (Acting)

#### Absent Members:

Steve Friedman  
Eli Glazier  
Andrew Mengel  
Karen Schonfeld

#### Non-Members:

Logan Blackistone  
Champe Burnley  
Tiffany Jennings  
Andrea Lasker  
Daniel Pachall  
Cynthia Spriggs

Eric Brenner  
Lori Hippenstell  
George Kandathil  
Susan Llarus  
Kevin Racine  
John "JT" Thomas  
Brigitte Carty  
Michael Jackson  
Aswan Khalid  
Tom McCarthy  
Kari Snyder  
Patrick McMahon

#### Staff:

Marty Baker  
Nate Evans  
Francine Waters

### I. Welcome & Introductions (10 min)

After a 25 minute technical delay, Jeff Hirsch started the meeting by welcoming all to MDOT Headquarters for the first in-person MBPAC meeting since January 2020. Nate Evans alerted participants that the meeting is now being recorded. Chair Jon Morrison opened the meeting.

### II. Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes (5 min)

The agenda was reviewed with no revisions. Jim Titus motioned to approve the April 22, 2022 meeting minutes. Antoine RJ Wright seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### III. Bicycle & Pedestrian Programs in Prince George's County (45 min)

Andrea Lasker, Tiffany Jennings, Aswan Khalid and Michael Jackson presented on Vision Zero, bicycle and pedestrian programs in Prince George's County. Committee members asked questions on how Prince George's County will address trail gaps in the county.



#### IV. Old Business & Public Comment (15 min)

##### a. State Rail Plan Recommendations

John "JT" Thomas, MDOT's Freight and Rail Program manager informed the committee that many of their recommendations have been incorporated into the latest draft of the state rail plan. The draft plan focuses on MDOT and MTA-owned properties and provides guidance on railbanking procedures. The draft plan is available online for comment at [https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MD\\_State\\_Rail\\_Plan\\_Draft\\_Web.pdf](https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/MD_State_Rail_Plan_Draft_Web.pdf)

##### b. Public Comment

- a. John Wetmore shared that the Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan is available for comment at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/>
- b. Daniel Paschall requested that shared-use paths and other trails be shown on the Prince George's bikeshare map.
- c. Jim Titus inquired if a Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) subcommittee can be formed to monitor how Maryland will update the state MUTCD based on the new federal document. Marty Baker indicated that the federal version will not be complete until 2023. Jim Titus requested that MBPAC work with SHA at the beginning of the process of updating the Maryland version (MDMUTCD) with similar efforts for the SHA bicycle design guidelines upon completion of the AASHTO bicycle design guidelines. Marty will keep the committee updated as these two efforts progress towards completion.
- d. Jeff Hirsch shared MDOT Secretary Ports response to Senators Cardin and Van Hollen and Congressman Hoyer's letter requesting the existing Nice Middleton Bridge be preserved as a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The response indicated that preserving the existing bridge was not feasible.

#### V. MBPAC Subcommittee Reports (15 min)

Pedestrian Subcommittee chair Marian Vessels shared that WayMap provided a presentation on how pedestrians can navigate the built environment using their app. The fall pedestrian newsletter will be released in time for Walktober.

A Disability subcommittee meeting will meet after the summer.

The Legislative Subcommittee met with the Pedestrian Bicycle Emphasis Area Team's (P-BEAT) legislative subcommittee to determine what bills can be pursued during the 2023 session. The joint committee agreed to propose legislation to eliminate the mandatory bike lane requirement and redefine personal mobility devices to streamline new vehicles implementation. Nate Evans shared that MDOT chose not to advance these bills in 2023, but this doesn't preclude legislators or advocates from introducing similar bills.

#### VI. Partner Agency Updates (20 min)

Gabriel Rose from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) shared that Local School Agencies (LEAs) across the State are dealing with the continued School Vehicle Driver shortage for the upcoming school year. LEAs are looking at expanding the non-transported areas around schools and



encouraging biking and walking to schools when able. Also, ideas such as a walking school bus continue to be encouraged for parents. Some changes that will be new this year for Anne Arundel County Public Schools will be the moving of the High School start time to now after elementary and middle schools.

Kristi Pier shared the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is developing a new online platform to track walking groups. MDH is also supporting some Safe Routes to School efforts through local health departments.

Heather Ersts shared that the Department of Commerce Office of Tourism is celebrating Trails Tuesday by recognizing water trails in the summer.

Bihui Xu from the Department of Planning (MDP) indicated that MDP is assisting MDOT by hosting walkinars in Walktober and updating the transit station profile tool with bicycle level of traffic stress (LTS) and statewide bike routes.

Marty Baker shared that MDOT Secretary Ports provided a response to the congressional request to preserve the existing Nice Middleton Bridge for bicycle and pedestrian access only. The FY23 Bikeways applications are working their way through the approval process with award announcements coming in September.

Patrick McMahon from MDOT Maryland Transit Administration shared that Monocacy MARC Station/Battlefield Visitor Center shared-use path project and Patapsco Avenue Bridge Phase 1 is getting underway. The North Avenue Rising project is concluding which has brought a cycletrack to Mt. Royal Avenue.

Cynthia Spriggs from the Maryland Highway Safety Office thanked participants of the legislative subcommittee meeting

## VII. Closing Reminders and Adjournment (5 min)

Action items:

1. Share the link to the state rail plan draft release. (See above)
2. Send the letter from Secretary Ports to Congressional delegation.
3. Share the link to the draft Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan. (See above)

The next MBPAC meeting will be held on October 28, 2022.

Jim Titus motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steve Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.



## **Appendix A – Chat Log from the July 22, 2022 MBPAC Meeting**

[7/22 9:03 AM] Nate Evans

Good Morning Everyone. We're working out some technical issues in the office. We'll be with you shortly

[7/22 9:10 AM] Tom McCarthy (Guest)

Hi All - I am sitting in for Andrew Mengel who is on vacation.

[7/22 9:10 AM] Nate Evans

Thanks Tom

[7/22 9:15 AM] Nate Evans

Apologies, the meeting has not yet started

[7/22 9:20 AM] Antoine RJ Wright

This is Antoine, I've called in (though stopped for a moment in transit), will be on audio only

[7/22 9:24 AM] John Thomas

the missing folks just got the updated link we should be good to go in a moment

[7/22 9:57 AM] Susan Llareus

Excellent presentation Tiffany!

[7/22 9:59 AM] Jennings, Tiffany W.

Thank you Susan!

[7/22 10:27 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

For the Vision Zero corridor improvements, does the County cross reference dangerous corridors and intersections with where safe, traffic-separated paths are planned as part of the Capital Trails Network in the County? [https://www.capitaltrailscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/princegeorges\\_CTN\\_final.pdf](https://www.capitaltrailscoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/princegeorges_CTN_final.pdf) That network is the foundation for the MWCOG National Capital Trail Network: <https://www.mwco.org/newsroom/2020/08/26/check-out-the-national-capital-trail-network/>

[7/22 10:28 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

Trails should be considered as a gold-standard Vision Zero solution for transportation planning, as they spur more robust traffic safety calming interventions than simply adding bike lanes or improving sidewalks in isolation. Trails right now are mostly disconnected and seen as recreation only, but if linked together as part of a larger network linking transit, businesses, and homes, they could become a real part of the safe systems approach

[7/22 10:30 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

Also, I love the map and efforts of the team to put everything in one place online with the interactive Prince George's transportation hub. Building off my previous question, could the interactive maps include existing trails & the Capital Trails Network as a layer for both the transit map, the PAMS map, and the Capital Bikeshare map?

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[7/22 10:33 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

The County's Vision Zero map has MD704 as a priority corridor where a road diet is planned, but also that's where the WB&A Trail is planned to be extended; it would be more cost effective to include the trail in the road resurfacing project if there's still enough time for further design of the trail.

[7/22 10:42 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

Totally agree with Antoine on incorporating more walk+bike+transit trip encouragement and planning, especially with better bus service and traffic-separated pedestrian/bike facilities. Thank you so much Tiffany, Andrea, Michael, and Azwan for your great presentations!

like 1

[7/22 10:48 AM] Lasker, Andrea

Thank you for the invitation - we look forward to returning in 2023.

[7/22 10:50 AM] Jennings, Tiffany W.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss bicycle and pedestrian programs in Prince George's County, MD.

like 1

[7/22 11:00 AM] John Thomas

[Link to MDOT Rail Plan](#)

<https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/tso/pages/newsroomdetails.aspx?newsId=620&PageId=38>

like 1

## Maryland Department Of Transportation Seeks Comment On Draft State Freight Plan And State Rail Plan - MDOT SHA

The Maryland Department of Transportation is a customer-driven leader that delivers safe, sustainable, intelligent, and exceptional transportation solutions in order to connect our customers to lif...

[7/22 11:07 AM] Jackson, Michael

Just to confirm Marty Baker's comment. FHWA anticipates the new MUTCD to be released in May 2023.

like 1

[7/22 11:12 AM] Jennings, Tiffany W.

Capital Projects under construction and projects in design on County Roads in Prince George's County, MD

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1012/Capital-Roadway-Project>

like 1

Capital Roadway and Bridge Projects | Prince George's County, MD

Learn more about major improvements to county roads.

[7/22 11:13 AM] C. Burnley

Does anyone have a link to the response from MDOT.

[7/22 11:13 AM] Nate Evans

The response should be online later today.



[7/22 11:17 AM] Daniel Paschall, East Coast Greenway Alliance (Guest)

Letter is available here (PDF)

<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/07.14.22%20Sec%20Ports%20-%20nice%20bridge.pdf>

[7/22 11:17 AM] Kristi Pier (she/her) MDH (Guest)

Nate--can you add the links to the comments, it's a bit tough to hear everyone. Thanks!

[7/22 11:17 AM] Logan Blackistone DNR : Outdoor Recreation (Guest)

<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/07.14.22%20Sec%20Ports%20-%20nice%20bridge.pdf>

[7/22 11:17 AM] C. Burnley

<https://www.vanhollen.senate.gov/download/071422-sec-ports-nice-bridgepdf>

[7/22 11:19 AM] Antoine RJ Wright

Please share the deck for the DC program, sounds amazing

[7/22 11:21 AM] Jon Morrison

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsouthernmarylandchronicle.com%2F2022%2F07%2F15%2Fvan-hollen-cardin-hoyer-urge-mdot-to-halt-demolition-of-nice-bridge-study-recreational-reuse-options%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cnevans1%40mdot.maryland.gov%7Cfa32f6a9aac34dbf0f9e08da68ed3cd3%7Cb38cd27c57ca4597be2822df43dd47f1%7C0%7C0%7C637937665388274018%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&data=K%2FLyKjOhpsoFelV1ZyN%2Bhr4maQG9%2F5JuXaFifliNDMQ%3D&reserved=0>

[7/22 11:22 AM] eric brenner (Guest)

Dear Secretary Ports:

With the work on the new Harry W. Nice/Thomas "Mac" Middleton Bridge across the Potomac River proceeding rapidly, we urge the State to reconsider plans to demolish the old bridge, and halt any immediate efforts to do so. These plans should not proceed until a study can be conducted on the feasibility as well as the financial and environmental costs and benefits of converting the old bridge to a non-motorized trail that could be used by pedestrians and bicyclists.

The demolition cost estimates made by the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) have ranged between \$15 million and \$23 million. Given that a new Environmental Analysis (EA) may now be necessary due to the modification of the demolition process to use explosives, which was not part of the original EA, an independent study to determine a common set of facts and costs would allow all parties the opportunity to consider the options for the use and ownership of the existing bridge.

An independent study, conducted by an entity with experience in similar bridge repurposing projects, is in the taxpayer's interest to ensure that we are not wasting an opportunity to provide bicycling and pedestrian transportation options at a competitive cost or potentially lower cost than demolition. This study should include costs, safety and navigation impacts, and the potential economic and health benefits of alternative transportation and outdoor recreation uses. Premature demolition would squander the opportunity to

M A R Y L A N D  
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee



repurpose the bridge if it is in the taxpayer and community's best interest. We strongly urge you to undertake this basic due diligence before moving forward on demolition.

We would appreciate a response by July 22, 2022 regarding the State's position and plans to secure an independent study and pause in demolition until this study is published.

Sincerely,

[7/22 11:46 AM] Cynthia Spriggs

Ped/Bike Emphasis Area Team - Please feel free to email me to join. I can also send out the recording from yesterday including the Safe Streets for All Funding Information. [cspriggs@mdot.maryland.gov](mailto:cspriggs@mdot.maryland.gov)